

# Biblical Notes – Matthew 11

At best, the passages often used by defenders of middle knowledge prove, if anything, only "that God, knowing all causes, free and necessary, knows how they would act under any proposed condition. Even we know that if we add fire to powder an explosion would ensue." [A. A. Hodge, *Outlines of Theology* (Carlisle, Pa.: Banner of Truth, 1972), 148 (italics in original).] In other words, these biblical passages only show us that God knows the nature of the free agent so well that, were that agent placed in another circumstance, God knows exactly what he would do. And this does not reconcile middle knowledge with libertarianism, but with compatibilism. More importantly, it is certainly possible that God knows this information only logically posterior to the divine decree thereby eliminating the need for middle knowledge. Therefore, there is little, if any, biblical warrant for the *scientia media*."

— Travis James Campbell, "Middle Knowledge."

"Since Scripture does not reflect upon this question, no amount of proof-texting can prove that God's counterfactual knowledge is possessed logically prior to his creative decree. This is a matter for theological-philosophical reflection, not biblical exegesis. Thus, while it is clearly unbiblical to deny that God has simple foreknowledge and even counterfactual knowledge, those who deny middle knowledge cannot be accused of being unbiblical."

— Craig, Middle Knowledge View, 125.

Refutation: <http://thirdmill.org/answers/answer.asp/file/99657.qna/category/th/page/questions/site/iiim>

It appears that you ignored my comments and the link that provided a direct refutation. Nothing in Mt 11:21 has anything to do with Middle Knowledge. It has to do with Counterfactuals or "hypotheticals". This still remains a part of his Natural Knowledge not Middle Knowledge.

Matthew 11:25-27 refutes the notion of MK:

Matthew 11:25-27 NASB

At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. [26] Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. [27] All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

"Middle Knowledge is here condemned. When Jesus says, "Father, Lord of heaven and earth," he is saying that God in his sovereignty has, in his good pleasure, hidden knowledge from some and revealed this same hidden knowledge to others. Matthew 11 does not speak about God not knowing anything until man does something, but rather already knowing it and just not revealing it until/if he desires. Matthew chapter 11 is teaching about an upcoming just judgment (Matt. 11:15-19). Note that it has not happened yet, but Christ knows it is going to happen. This is not middle knowledge, but natural knowledge and the free knowledge to justly act as God sees fit according to his pleasure."

— Dr. Joseph R. Nally